

Metro Parks



1069 West Main St
Westerville OH 43081

Tel: 614.891.0700

TTY: 614.895.6240

Fax: 614.895.6208

www.metroparks.net

Park Commissioners:

Greg S. Lashutka

Jim McGregor

J. Jeffrey McNealey

Director:

John R. O'Meara

Your Metro Parks:

Battelle Darby Creek

Blacklick Woods and
Golf Courses

Blendon Woods

Chestnut Ridge

Clear Creek

Glacier Ridge

Heritage Park
and Trail

Highbanks

Inniswood Metro
Gardens

Pickerington Ponds

Prairie Oaks

Rocky Fork

Scioto Audubon

Sharon Woods

Slate Run Farm
and Park

Three Creeks

Mr. Don West
Environmental Management Support, Inc
8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 500
Silver Spring, MD 20910

January 22, 2014

RE: Greater Columbus Coalition Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant Request

Dear Mr. West:

The Greater Columbus Coalition, consisting of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District (Metro Parks), the City of Columbus and Franklin County are pleased to submit this application for a 2014 Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant. We are applying for a Community-Wide Assessment Grant for both hazardous substances and petroleum sites within Franklin County, with a particular emphasis on the Franklinton/ West Broad Street, Scioto River Corridor and State Route 104 Industrial Corridors.

Metro Parks serves as the lead agency for this coalition application. Metro Parks is a regional system of natural area parks that manages over 27,000 acres of land in seven Central Ohio counties. In a typical year, over 7.5 million visitors attend a Metro Park. In the past decade, Metro Parks has become more involved in projects that have involved brownfields or potential brownfield sites in Central Ohio. These projects have included riparian trails as part of the Central Ohio Regional Greenway System and redevelopment of the Whittier Peninsula.

The history of the 160 acre Whittier Peninsula is long and storied with historic use including manufacturing (steel foundry and auto part electroplating), asphalt and concrete production, the City's impound lot, and landfill operations. By 2004, the Peninsula was the site of homeless camps, abandoned warehouses, and criminal behavior. The complete transformation of Whittier Peninsula into Scioto Audubon Metro Park is almost complete, and this major new park in the heart of the city currently has yearly attendance of over 700,000 visitors and growing.

Metro Parks has been fortunate to obtain several grants related to brownfields in the past several years as will be shown within the grant application. Each grant has been successfully implemented and each has achieved cleanup standards for recreational land use under Ohio EPA's Voluntary Action Program (VAP). Whittier Peninsula was declared the 2010 US EPA Region 5 Brownfield of the Year. Metro Parks wants to share our experience to revitalize additional brownfield sites within Franklin County.

The City of Columbus, Franklin County and Metro Parks have demonstrated success in the past through our individual handling of previously awarded USEPA, Clean Ohio, and economic development grants. Working as a coalition, we can bring all of our strengths together and be worthy of US EPA's consideration and an investment of a Coalition Assessment Grant. Coalition members have successfully worked with each other in the past on various projects and the groundwork for clear and effective communication and collaboration is present.

Our partnership will be able to make a measurable impact on the quality of life, both environmentally and economically on several distressed areas within Franklin

County OH. By targeting linear corridors along major highways and a river, our coalition can maximize the benefits that will accrue to the Central Ohio community. Corridors connect people, neighborhoods, communities, commercial centers, education and cultural institutions and the environment. They provide the means for sustainable transportation and form the foundation for "healthy" communities. Blighted, abandoned, or underutilized properties can have a significant impact on the health of the community, both on a tangible level but also in terms of the perceptions of the community and visitors to it. There is an urgent need in these corridors to take action to address brownfield redevelopment.

A.) Applicant Identification: Metro Parks was established in 1945, under the Ohio Revised Code 1545. The officer in charge is Executive Director, John O'Meara.

B.) DUNS number: 032375101

C.) Funding Request:

- i. Grant Type- Coalition Brownfield Assessment
- ii. Amount-\$600,000
- iii. Contamination-Hazardous substances (\$200,000) and petroleum substances (\$400,000)
- iv. Community-Wide

D.) Location: Franklin County and Columbus, Ohio

E.) Contacts:

Larry Peck
1069 W. Main Street
Westerville, OH 43081
614-895-6236
peck@metroparks.net

Chief Executive
John O'Meara
1069 W. Main Street
Westerville, OH 43081
614-895-6202
omeara@metroparks.net

F.) Date Submitted: January 22, 2014 via U.S. Postal Service

G.) Project Period: Three years from the date of the signed Cooperative Agreement

H.) Population:

- i. The population of Franklin County, as estimated in 2012 by the American Community Survey (US Census Bureau) was 1,195,537.
- ii. The population within the City of Columbus in 2012, as estimated by the same source, was 809,798.

We are excited about the opportunity to continue our brownfield assessment and revitalization efforts in Columbus and look forward to working with EPA in this effort. We want to demonstrate that once again, we are an excellent return on your investment.

Sincerely,



Lawrence J. Peck
Deputy Director

THRESHOLD CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT GRANTS

Applicant Eligibility. The Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District (Metro Parks), the City of Columbus, and Franklin County (the Coalition) have formed a coalition to apply for a Coalition Assessment Grant. Metro Parks will be the lead grant recipient and is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio formed under the authority of Chapter 1545 of the Ohio Revised Code. The City of Columbus and Franklin County, the other two members of the Coalition, are general-purpose units of local government. The Coalition was created with brownfield redevelopment its primary missions. An executed Memorandum of Agreement and letters of participation/legislative resolutions from each member are included as Attachment A.

Letter from State Environmental Authority. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and Ohio Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) have prepared letters of acknowledgement regarding the Coalition's intention to apply for a \$600,000 Coalition Assessment Grant. Copies of the letters are included as Attachment B.

Site Eligibility and Property Ownership Eligibility. The applicant is requesting a Coalition Assessment Grant which is a community-wide proposal; therefore, site and property ownership eligibility criteria are not applicable at this time.

RANKING CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT GRANTS

Introduction. In 2004, a coalition was formed consisting of the City of Columbus, Audubon Ohio, and Metro Parks with the expressed purpose of revitalizing the Whittier Peninsula, a brownfield of approximately 160 acres just south of downtown Columbus. The peninsula had a history of industrial and commercial use and was the home of steel foundries, asphalt and concrete plants, warehouse operations, an electroplating factory, landfills and salvage yards, and the City of Columbus Impound Lot. By 2004, the bulk of the peninsula was littered with abandoned warehouses and other buildings, homeless communities, the impound lot, open dumping, and extensive deprecative criminal behavior. Environmental issues had been identified with much of the property including various chemicals of concern including heavy metals, solvents, and petroleum residuals.

Metro Parks took the lead on the environmental cleanup of the Whittier Peninsula. Utilizing an Ohio Department of Development Clean Ohio Assistance Fund grant and the US EPA Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund and a US EPA Site Specific Assessment Grant, Metro Parks was able to leverage a \$1.5 million Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund grant, City of Columbus Capital Improvement Funds, and Metro Parks Capital Improvement Funds (totaling approximately \$20 million) and Scioto Audubon Metro Park has become a reality! Audubon Ohio was able to secure over \$14 million in private funds to construct and provide operational endowments for the Grange Insurance Audubon Center. The Grange Insurance Audubon Center is a LEED certified building where local residents are introduced to nature and green technology such as a green roof, geothermal heating and cooling, bio-swales and other sustainable practices.

In 2014, the remaining privately-owned warehouse is slated to be redeveloped into an office complex that could bring hundreds of well-paying jobs to the Whittier Peninsula. This private investment and the resulting jobs only became possible because of the environmental remediation and assistance from USEPA grants. Franklin County residents, Ohio and US EPA should all agree we received a great return on the investment environmentally and economically!

Over 700,000 people visited Scioto Audubon Metro Park in 2013. The park consists of wetlands, demonstration prairies, picnic facilities, an obstacle course, the largest climbing wall in

a public park in the Midwest, and an active dog park for downtown residents. No longer is the Whittier Peninsula a blighted area to be avoided—rather now it is the source of civic pride. What has been accomplished at Scioto Audubon is the catalyst behind this application for a Community Based Coalition Assessment Grant. If we can do it at Scioto Audubon Metro Park, our coalition can address brownfields elsewhere in the Greater Columbus Community.

1. Community Need (45 pts)

a. Targeted Community and Brownfields(20 points)

i. Targeted Community Description (5 pts)

The largest city and capital of Ohio, Columbus was first laid out in 1812 and incorporated in 1816. Industries began to emerge and grew quickly in the years following the Civil War. By the 1880's there were almost 200 factories in operation including manufacturing of shoes, cigars, farm tools and machinery, furniture, carriages, and brooms. Iron manufacturers and foundries flourished as did brewing companies established by German immigrants.

Similar to many communities in the Midwest, Columbus and Franklin County continue to wrestle with the impacts of the decline in the manufacturing base that has occurred over the past 40 years. On the surface, Central Ohio is a vibrant community with such institutions as The Ohio State University, Battelle Institute, and the headquarters of five Fortune 500 companies. Franklin County is emerging as a logistics and transportation hub as we are within 500 miles of 45% of the population of the US (ESRI Business Analyst, 2011). Per the US Census Bureau, Franklin County was the fastest growing county in Ohio from July 2011 to July 2012 with a population growth rate of 1.38%.

But unfortunately not all is well. For the past 20 years and particularly since the most recent recession, Columbus and Franklin County has been dealt a number of blows to the economic viability of the region--closing of military bases, layoffs of thousands of state and local government employees, one of the largest home foreclosure rates in the United States, and relocation of companies and well-paying jobs from the region. Metropolitan Columbus has the third (soon to be the second) largest population of Somalis in the world; many of whom are refugees. The percentage of working poor continues to grow with 18.2% of the population at or below the Federal Poverty Level of \$11,490 (individual) and \$23,550 (family of four)(US Census Bureau and HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2013). This trend will continue with the relocation of families from Appalachia and other economically distressed areas of the United States, Mexico, and Central America to Franklin County.

This grant application targets three (3) specific corridors within Franklin County, that include several of the most distressed areas in Central Ohio considering residents below the poverty line, infant mortality, vacant housing units, and unemployment rates (see following table):

1. Franklinton/West Broad Street Corridor. The Franklinton/Broad Street Corridor extends west along West Broad Street from downtown Columbus to Interstate 270. At the eastern end is Franklinton, the oldest neighborhood in Columbus and the only downtown neighborhood to not see major revitalization. At the western end sits the vacant Westland Mall, a once bustling commercial hub. From its early history of major floods, to the isolation of the community following development of Interstate 670, to the recent recession and home foreclosure crisis, Franklinton is the site of many closed gas service stations and smaller businesses. Franklinton has not seen private investment in new housing in 80 years. In the corridor, there are several remnants of large industrial operations including the GM/Delphi Plant which employed as many as 2,500 people prior to closing in December, 2007. Except for the recent development of a

casino, this corridor has been largely neglected in previous efforts to revitalize areas of Columbus. During windshield inspections, over 50 specific blighted, abandoned, or underutilized properties were identified in Franklinton itself. Over 47% of Franklinton residents live below the Federal Poverty Level.

2. State Route 104 Corridor. This corridor, bounded by Livingston Avenue on the north, Alum Creek on the east, State Route 104 on the south, and Scioto River on the west, is a fully developed, urban district that is approximately 3,443 acres in size. Located a few miles south of downtown, this area lies midway between the core of the city and its southern boundary. Per the City's Department of Development, industrial uses account for approximately 37% of the area. (predominate land use east of Fairwood Avenue, south of Marion Avenue/Hosack Street, and west of High Street). Manufacturing uses are found between Parsons and Champion Avenues. Vacant land (5% of the corridor) primarily lots zoned for residential use is scattered throughout the area. Development occurred largely from 1850 to 1900, with most of the area annexed to Columbus from 1950 to 1960. This area was home to major industrial operations including steel production for freight and passenger rail cars and iron for rail car couplers, tool and die casting and glass production. This area is one of the hardest hit in terms of the impact of a loss of manufacturing jobs and has experienced a protracted period of disinvestment resulting in declining and deteriorating properties. Over 45% of the housing units are vacant.

3. Scioto River Corridor. This corridor is also located south of downtown Columbus and extends along the Scioto River from Scioto Audubon Metro Park to the Franklin County/Pickaway County Line. Similar to the other corridors, this area presents many blighted properties with industrial and commercial histories. Being downstream from downtown Columbus, this corridor became the location of sewage treatment plants, landfills, a trash burning power plant, the local rendering plant, and other major necessary but environmentally-unfriendly operations. The Scioto River Corridor has the great potential for environmental/recreational opportunities that would enhance the quality of life of local residents. The Whittier Peninsula and Scioto Audubon Metro Park are located within this corridor.

ii. Demographic Information (5 pts)

Demographic	National (Per Guidelines Stats)	Ohio	Franklin County	Franklinton	W. Broad Street Corridor	St.Route 104 Corridor
Zip Code*				43222	43228	43207
Data						
Population (2010)*	308,745,538	11,536,504	1,195,537	4,451	50,737	44,348
African American*	26.7% Minority		21.00%	18.40%	14.70%	26.50%
Hispanic*			4.80%	4.30%	13.50%	3.50%
Asian*				1.20%	2.70%	1.30%
Median Household Income (2011)**	\$49,445	\$45,749		\$17,660	\$29,910	\$22,857
Unemployment Rate (25 years & older)*	7.20%	7.5% ***	6.1% ***	31%	9.90%	14.80%

Residents W/Income Below Poverty Level (2011)*	15.10%		18.20%	47.20%	22.50%	22.10%
Residents W/Income 50% Below Poverty Level (2011)*				29.80%	11.60%	10.70%
Vacant Housing Units**				37.60%	44%	45%
Children Below Poverty Level**				73.30%	56%	71.10%

(*2010 US Census, **Bureau of Labor Statistics, ***2010 American Community Survey- Income Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States, 2010, US Census Bureau)

iii. Brownfields (5 pts)

Brownfield sites are concentrated throughout the targeted corridors and have a significant negative impact on residential areas and remaining, active commercial/industrial sites that they are immediately adjacent to. While the full extent of brownfields is currently unknown, our initial assessment is that over 500 current and former manufacturing sites, engine repair shops, paint/collision repair shops, gas stations, dry cleaners, tool and die companies, foundries, and scrap yards are located within Franklin County (*City Directories*). Many of these manufacturers and proprietors have left our targeted communities, often for greenfield sites, leaving brownfields that provide no economic benefit for the impacted communities and impeding development because of the reality or perception of contamination. Potential buyers or developers avoid the area. Examples of specific sites within the targeted corridors which may be addressed by the grant include Chromedge Plating Property (hydrocarbons, heavy metals, volatile organics), Columbus Castings (petroleum, paints, metals, chlorinated solvents), CSX property on the Whittier Peninsula (site of a scrap operation--PCBs, chlorinated solvents, petroleum), and over 12 former service stations along W. Broad Street (chlorinated and petroleum solvents, oils, gasoline, diesel). All of these possible contaminants have a number of exposure pathways including direct contact, vapor inhalation, ingestion, airborne particulate inhalation and can lead to health effects including respiratory illness, cancer, liver and kidney damage, and/or anemia.

i.v. Cumulative Environmental Issues (5 pts)

Within the corridors, a historic pattern of large scale operations exist that have had significant impacts on the environment including the location of industries of steel foundries, landfills, a trash burning power plant, the City's impound lot, rendering operations, sewage treatment facilities, and similar activities. As Columbus developed, these corridors became the site to place those necessary but unattractive facilities that are not desired in the residential community. The targeted areas were greatly impacted by the development of the Federal Interstate Highway System with the construction of Interstates 70, 71, and 670—neighborhoods were separated and isolated, air and water quality were impacted, and much of the economic growth experienced in Central Ohio was not shared with the targeted corridors. Residents and businesses who could afford to do so relocated from the targeted areas, leaving more blight as evidenced by the high rates of vacant buildings and housing units. As it is less expensive and risky to develop greenfields than to redevelop brownfields, conversion of greenfields is a significant environmental issue in Central Ohio that redevelopment of brownfields will help address.

b. Impact on Targeted Communities (15 pts)

Looking specifically at Franklinton, one sees the impact on resident's health that has emerged from the combined impacts of a poor economic base, blighted and abandoned properties, and likely environmental issues that have not been addressed. Infant mortality rates are double that found elsewhere in Franklin County and Ohio and there are significantly higher incidence rates of heart disease, cancer, chronic respiratory disease, and accidental deaths.

Demographic	Ohio	Franklin County	Franklinton
Zip Code*			43222
Asthma in Children (2006)	13.30%	14.90%	N/A
Low Birth Rate (2010)	8.60%	9.40%	N/A
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000)	7.8	8.2	15.1*****
Cancer Incidents*****	465.1	490	N/A
Cancer Deaths*****	203.3	215	N/A
Leading Causes of Death			
Heart Disease*****	191.7	181	234.1*****
Cancer*****	187.3	180.7	215.6*****
Chronic Respiratory Disease*****	50.4	56.8	103.2*****
Accidental*****	41.6	40.9	87.1*****
Alzheimers *****	29.7	28.1	N/A

***** Rates are per 100,000

***** Based on 2005-2007 Data from Columbus Public Health

Although not quantitatively assessed, the mental and aesthetic fatigue brownfields have on the corridors is palpable (www.LowerLights.org provides some insight). It is time for a comeback for these neighborhoods that will involve one property at a time—a “flywheel” approach similar to what occurred at Scioto Audubon and the surrounding Brewery District.

Our coalition will replicate the Scioto Audubon Metro Park experience (as described in the introduction) in the targeted corridors. The City of Columbus has also facilitated brownfield redevelopment success stories over the past ten years that will be discussed later in the grant. What has become evident is that a source of quickly accessible environmental assessment funding is needed in the critical early stage of brownfield redevelopment. To date, none of the targeted communities have been able to secure grants and funding for such assessments. The Coalition's brownfields and economic development experience and their understanding of the roles and uses of the Assessment Grant and other financial support mechanisms in brownfield redevelopment, combined with the abundance of brownfields and redevelopment opportunities in the target geographic areas, equals a successful Assessment Grant project and redevelopment program.

c. Financial need (10 pts)

i. Economic Conditions (5 pts)

With over 2,000 identified brownfields in Ohio, the competition for limited State and local resources is intense and little has been directed to our targeted communities in the past. The State of Ohio has the Clean Ohio Program but it is a highly competitive program and for the most part to be competitive a project requires identification of a known end user with major job

creation or retention as an end result. Within Central Ohio there are other more lucrative sites for brownfield revitalization in the eyes of private and non-profit developers. Complicating the situation further, the State of Ohio has eliminated over half of the Local Government Funds that were forwarded to local units of government including cities, villages, townships, counties, and park districts. For the three partners, these cuts have amounted to over \$49 Million annually. The economic conditions of the target areas has been made worse by the industrial decline in these communities and plant closures like the Delphi Auto Stamping Plant and the loss of its 2,500 jobs. Ohio has the 9th highest rate in terms of total foreclosures and is 3rd highest in the Midwest. Cost to local governments in Columbus, Cincinnati, and Cleveland from 2009-12 include an estimated \$7.8 Million in direct expenses and \$30 Million in lost property tax revenue (Bankproperties.com). With unemployment rates in the corridors ranging from 10-34%, the economic conditions are grim at the moment.

ii. Economic Effect of Brownfields (5 pts)

In terms of the economic effects of the corridor brownfields, we see the economic effects of a reduced tax base, lost jobs, and earlier attempts at brownfield redevelopment that failed when potential developers were "scared" off by real or perceived environmental issues. It is estimated that 50% of the commercial properties in the targeted communities have been abandoned. In several census tracts, the rate may be close to 75%. Many underprivileged corridor residents have an environmental justice identification due to the location of brownfields in close proximity to their residences. For example, 30% of Franklinton residents are at 50% below the Poverty Level and 56-73% of the children are in homes below Poverty Level income. Vacant housing ranges from 38-45% in each of the corridors. The poor appearance of abandoned structures, their age, and hazardous conditions due to a lack of maintenance, missing exterior doors, and dilapidated state present a challenge to the economic rebirth of the targeted areas.

2. Project Description and Feasibility of Success (50 pts)

a. Project Description (25 pts)

i. Describe Project/Alignment with community plans/redevelopment strategy(10 points)

The Coalition will use grant funds to assess 18-25 sites (including 10-12 former petroleum service stations) that can create new jobs, taxes, economic activity for Franklin County and targeted communities, and reduce threats to health, welfare, and the environment. The Coalition will work with community-based organizations and local government officials to identify and target brownfields having the potential for redevelopment or green-space expansion.

Within the three target corridors, we currently estimate that the allocation of Assessment Grant funds will be 40% to the Franklinton/West Broad St. Corridor, 30% to the State Route 104 Industrial Corridor, and 30% to the Scioto River Corridor. Approximately 60% of the budget will be directed to sites impacted by petroleum products and the remaining 40% to hazardous substances sites.

Selection criteria will focus on sites that support adopted community revitalization plans addressing land use, urban design, and development guidelines. These plans generally stress facilitating investments that will stabilize the affected neighborhood, increase home ownership, attract retail and services, and grow employment opportunities which will be consistent with goals of the Coalition. Adopted plans include the Westland Interim Development Framework, Franklinton Creative Community District Plan, West Franklinton Area Plan, Greater Hilltop Plan, and the South Side Plan. Access to properties will be accomplished several ways. Metro Parks and City of Columbus Recreation and Parks will make completion of Phase I/II ESAs a

condition of purchase for trailhead/green-space expansion. The Columbus Land Bank and Franklin County Land Bank can also serve as a tool in gaining access. Both receive property from Tax and Environmental Court foreclosures, donations, and purchases and hold title to the property until it is sold for a beneficial use. The Columbus Land Bank has sold over 800 properties and currently has title to 30 properties that are zoned for commercial or industrial use including a gas station, warehouse space, and mixed use commercial buildings. Access will also be gained working directly with developers and known end users such as Wonderland Columbus who is seeking property within our targeted areas.

ii. Project Management Approach to complete in 3 years (5 points)

Upon approval of our application, the coalition will solicit and contract with a single qualified environmental consultant using a Qualifications-Based Selection process consistent with established Metro Parks (as the lead agency) purchasing procedures and applicable State of Ohio statutes. Upon execution of our Cooperative Agreement, the consultant will prepare a Quality Assurance Project Plan for review and approval by the U.S. EPA.

Eligibility determination for potential sites will be prepared and submitted to the Ohio Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (petroleum) and the U.S. EPA (petroleum and hazardous substances) to verify eligibility prior to expenditure of grant funds. Coalition members will work with the consultant to design an environmental assessment program that addresses issues associated with each particular brownfield and maximizes community benefit and environmental justice. Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) will be conducted according to the requirements of All Appropriate Inquiry (ASTM Standard E1527-05 and mindful of the USEPA impending approval of 1527-13) and, if appropriate, the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-300-06 for the Ohio Voluntary Action Program (VAP). A Property Profile Form for the site will be entered into the Assessment, Cleanup, and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES) database. Phase II ESAs will be designed in accordance with ASTM Standard E1903-97 (and the VAP if appropriate) to investigate potential environmental impact, potential off-site health effects, and redevelopment issues associated with on-site contamination. Prior to conducting a Phase II ESA, a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and a Health and Safety Plan (HASP) will be submitted to U.S. EPA for review. Upon U.S. EPA approval of the SAP, the project consultant will conduct the Phase II ESA. Following the Phase II ESA, the project consultant and Coalition will engage potential developers, and community based partners to assess liability management, cleanup, and site use strategies that support redevelopment efforts and improve the health of residents and the environment.

Additional remedial investigations may be needed to further define the nature and extent of contamination and design environmental response actions. Results will be disseminated through public outreach and community organizations. The Ohio EPA and the City/ County Public Health Departments will be notified should imminent health threats be identified. Metro Parks will submit required project progress reports and annual financial reports to the U.S. EPA.

Milestones the Coalition has mutually agreed on is as follows: By October 2014 50% of funds available are assigned to specific sites, by January 2015 75% of funds available are assigned to specific sites, by June 2015 100% of funds available are assigned to specific sites. By December 2015, 100% of funds available are spent and assessments completed.

iii. Site Selection (10 points)

Specific sites will be selected following formal adoption of criteria by the coalition in concert with community organizations and government partners. A draft site application is

included as Attachment C. Priority will be given to abandoned sites that have ready access, known end uses for commercial, residential, or additional public green-space, clear environmental benefits, and that will support community plans. Priority will also be given to sites that are at the Phase II ESA stage. By completing environmental assessments, the coalition will eliminate much of the uncertainty that has repelled or has led to a breakdown in negotiations between owners (including land banks active in the community) and prospective end users.

b. Task Description and Budget Table (20pts)

i. Task Description (15 pts)

Grant funds will be strictly used for assessment activities with no grant funds used for administrative tasks (salaries, equipment, and supplies) undertaken by the Coalition members. An anticipated 1,000 hours of committed in-kind services are estimated to be valued at \$120,000.

Task 1: Program Costs

The Coalition members will provide in-kind staff resources associated with the majority of the programmatic costs, including conducting community outreach programs, developing the site selection process, coordinating and conducting operational meetings, and other activities associated with grant inventory and assessment functions. The Assessment Grant proposal budget includes projected travel costs to one Ohio Brownfields Conference and to one US EPA National Brownfields Conference.

Task 2: Community Involvement

Community outreach program costs including contractual costs for coordinating and conducting community involvement outreach programs and events and for the costs of preparing, printing, and mailing project, site information, marketing pamphlets, documents, and mileage are based on the City's and Metro Parks' experience with previous USEPA brownfield projects. Coalition members will provide in-kind services needed to conduct community outreach meetings, draft press releases, update member's website as new information is generated, and other community outreach activities. Various Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) have committed in-kind services for the community outreach effort.

Task 3: Site Inventory

These costs will include contractual costs for identifying and cataloging sites and for developing forms and systems for collecting, evaluating, and implementing the site prioritization selection. The Coalition and CBOs will provide in-kind labor for identifying sites and for site selections.

Task 4: Site Assessments

Site assessments will include Phase I ESA, preparation of Sampling and Analysis Plans (SAPs) for each property requiring environmental media sampling, and Phase II ESA for hazardous substance properties and new Ohio 2012 closure rules (OAC 1301:7-9-12) for petroleum properties. The ESAs may be conducted in accordance with the Ohio Voluntary Action Program (VAP). Site assessments will primarily focus on Phase I and II ESA and BUSTR closure assessment activities. The budget table is based on an estimated cost/activity and individual site characteristics may require more or less resources, depending on the potential site impacts (no. of USTs, RECs, etc.)

Task 5: Cleanup Planning

The Coalition will conduct cleanup planning (i.e., Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives) where redevelopment is imminent and such activities will facilitate the redevelopment of the property. Six such efforts are estimated at a contractual cost of approximately \$5,000 each.

Contractual costs for this task are estimated based on previous experience with USEPA Assessment and Cleanup grants and Clean Ohio funds.

ii. Budget Table (5 pts)

The Coalition is requesting a grant in the amount of \$400,000 for assessment of petroleum and \$200,000 for assessment of hazardous substances. All budget tasks under the contractual category will be performed by the selected environmental consultant in accordance with established Ohio EPA, Ohio State Fire Marshall BUSTR, and U.S. EPA guidelines.

Budget Categories	Task 1: Program Costs	Task 2: Community Outreach	Task 3: Site Inventory	Task 4: Site Assessments	Task 5: Cleanup Planning	Total Grant Budget
Hazardous Substances Assessment Budget						
Personnel						
Travel	\$1,300	\$1,000	\$100			\$2,400
Supplies	\$800	\$400	\$400			\$1,600
Contractual		\$1,800	\$8,200	\$180,000	\$6,000	\$196,000
Subtotal	\$2,100	\$3,200	\$8,700	\$180,000	\$6,000	\$200,000
Petroleum Assessment Budget						
Personnel						
Travel	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$300			\$4,800
Supplies	\$1,600	\$500	\$800			\$2,900
Contractual		\$4,500	\$10,400	\$353,400	\$24,000	\$392,300
Subtotal	\$3,600	\$7,500	\$11,500	\$353,400	\$24,000	\$400,000
Grant Total	\$5,700	\$10,700	\$20,200	\$533,400	\$30,000	\$600,000

Types	Phase I ESA	QAPP	SAP	Phase II VAP/ESA	BUSTR Phase II ESA
Hazardous Substance Est No:	6	1	5	5	N/A
Avg Cost per report:	\$6,500		\$3,000	\$25,000	
Petroleum Est. No :	12		12	N/A	12
Avg Cost per report	\$6,500		\$2,000		\$20,000

Tracking Progress and Measuring Outcomes

The Coalition understands the importance of documenting performance and will measure and track the listed outputs and outcomes in the required quarterly reporting. Once a property is determined to be eligible, it will be entered into the ACRES database. The ACRES profiles will be updated following completion of PIESAs and PIIESAs, remediation and/or redevelopment activities. Outputs will include the number of community meetings held, number of brownfields identified and inventoried, number of Phase I and II ESAs completed, and number of properties where cleanup planning was conducted. Outcomes will include acres of land assessed, acres of property remediated, acres of property redeveloped, redevelopment investment value, jobs created or retained and related tax revenue generated, acres of green-space preserved or created, other leveraged funding, and increase in property value post remediation.

The Coalition will evaluate the project progress quarterly to determine if the funds are being expended as anticipated and if the completed assessments are serving as a catalyst for

remediation and/or redevelopment investment dollars and creating employment opportunities for the residents of the County. The Coalition will adjust their approach to selecting properties for investment of funds if it appears that the project is not generating the expected outcomes in a timely manner.

c. Ability to Leverage (5 pts)

Successful redevelopment of target properties after application of grant funds will require the assemblage of funding packages that support additional assessment, remediation activities, demolition, and hazardous materials abatement, and eventual redevelopment of eligible sites. Grant funds will be used to leverage State of Ohio programs include the Clean Ohio Fund (now called the Jobs Ohio Fund), SiteOhio, Urban Redevelopment Loan Program, Water Pollution Control Loan Fund, and Ohio Water Development Authority. Federal programs which may be leveraged include USEPA grants (assessment, Cleanup, and Revolving Loan Funds), Community Development Block Grants, and the Housing and Urban Development's Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI). Locally, the City of Columbus has a number of applicable economic development incentives including a Jobs Growth Initiative, Vacant and Abandoned Property Initiative, Job Creation Tax Credit, Downtown Office Incentive, property tax abatements, tax exemptions within Community Reinvestment Areas (all corridors fall within a CRA), Urban Infrastructure Recovery Funds, the Green Columbus Fund and numerous business loan funds. Franklin County has a number of economic development tools including technology and retail incubation services, small business lending, and tax abatements and increment financing. Additional short-term funding, such as developer equity or cash repayment through tax increment financing (TIFs) from local agencies may also be utilized to supplement actual private investments. Metro Parks and the City of Columbus will purchase and cleanup several sites for eventual use as greenspace/trailheads. Community foundations can also be leveraged to contribute to successful economic and green space redevelopments. Voluntary cost share of an estimated \$100,000 by coalition members and community based organizations for in-kind services should also be considered as applicable leverage.

3. Community Engagement and Partnerships (35 pts)

a. Plan for Involving Targeted Community and Other Stakeholders; Communicating Project Progress (15 pts)

Coalition community engagement efforts began with an initial public information meeting on January 7, 2014 to inform the public and stakeholders about our grant application and plans (sign-in sheet, flier, and advertisement in Attachment D). Community stakeholders (Franklinton Area Commission, Hilltop Area Commission and Audubon Ohio) identified several sites for consideration in proximity to several environmental justice situations and their suggestions resulted in changes in the coalition's planned site selection criteria. The Hilltop Area Commission expressed interest in being involved in the site selection process

Upon application approval, the Coalition will issue a press release to all local print and electronic media with a copy posted on member's websites. Initial post award activities will focus on a community input program for site identification. Copies of the grant will be available at public library branches within the target communities and distributed to applicable stakeholders and community organizations. Public comments regarding the project plan and grant funding budget will be accepted verbally, in writing, and discussed at a public meeting. Comments received will be reflected in the final Work Plan submitted to USEPA.

Throughout grant implementation, the Coalition will continuously involve specific developers, lenders, and local business leaders in discussions of best redevelopment uses of sites in light of market conditions, identification and solicitation of potential developers, financial options and mechanisms for funding site preparation activities, and environmental justice considerations. Site selection scoring criteria will also be discussed. Upon selection of a site, the host neighborhood will be notified through the appropriate civic association. If requested, the Coalition will meet with residents/businesses to explain the program and the nature of the assessment activities. The Coalition will announce the results of the assessment program and planned remediation strategies developed under the grant funding via websites and press releases. All public meetings will be held in an accessible venue served by public transportation. Arrangements will be made for interpreters for Hispanic, Somali, and hearing impaired residents in order to ensure their participation.

Members of the coalition are very comfortable working with neighborhood associations, citizen groups, property owners, lenders, business organizations, and developers. The Coalition has already reached out to over 20 organizations ranging from communities in the Franklinton area that have plans to redevelop the community to churches to grass root cycling organizations.

b. Partnerships with Government Agencies (10 pts)

Upon application approval, the coalition will invite representatives from the Franklin County Health Department, City of Columbus Health, Code Enforcement, and Refuse Departments, Columbus Police Strategic Response Bureau, and their community liaison officers, and other City Departments focused on the environment and green initiatives to discuss the grant and opportunities to address environmental and health issues. These agencies will be asked to identify any particular sites whose cleanup and reuse could add to the overall health, welfare, and environmental quality of the targeted communities.

During assessment, information will be provided and any health or environmental findings shared with affected government agencies. If health threats are identified during an assessment, the Columbus and Franklin County Health Departments will become active partners to disseminate information and participate in action planning for solution.

Metro Parks and the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department will inventory abandoned and underutilized properties that can serve as access points/trailheads allowing the public to have easy access to the Camp Chase Railroad, Scioto River Greenway Trail, and a water trail linking the Greenlawn Dam to the proposed Scioto South Metro Park. As will be further discussed in the “benefits” section of the grant application, easy access to recreational facilities is a key component of improving the health of residents, particularly low income.

The coalition and the environmental consultant will also work with Ohio EPA and Ohio Department of Development to identify potential sites that they are aware of that might prove attractive to developers and potential end users or which pose specific hazards to the community. We anticipate many of the selected brownfield sites will enter the Ohio EPA VAP program.

c. Partnerships with Community Organizations (10 pts)

Attachment E includes letters of support from a variety of community-based organizations (CBOs). As is often the case in blighted neighborhoods, very active grass roots organizations exist and our coalition will tap into their energy, commitment, and knowledge. The City of Columbus has a system of neighborhood associations including the Greater Hilltop and Franklinton Area Commissions that help advise the City on matters of importance including neighborhood revitalization, economic development and serve as a liaison with the community.

Other CBOs who will be sought as partners are those who directly combat blight and strive to bring about positive change through development, and those who inform and educate the public through community engagement. Current CBO partners include the Franklinton Development Association and Weston Vision, Inc. who work with developers to accomplish long-term strategic plans and end uses. Community Development for All People is the largest non-profit of affordable housing on Columbus' South side, and are partners on two Low-Income Housing Tax Credit projects and are the sole owner of a plan to encourage commercial re-development to Parsons Ave (State Route 104 corridor). Wonderland Columbus' goal is to develop work space for artists and creative entrepreneurs to pursue their passions, and they have been looking for space in the Franklinton area free of environmental issues. Lower Lights Ministries and St. John's Columbus Episcopal Church are religious institutions that serve and ministers to the needs of their members and community through operation of a food pantry and provision of clothing and supplies to the under housed and homeless. Franklinton Gardens operates a network of community gardens and provides fresh produce to area residents. Through possible property acquisition as a result of assessment work, Franklinton Gardens would like to expand. The Urban Land Institute is a non-profit who has a passion for seeing in-fill redevelopment occur to preserve greenspace and farm land. Sierra Club is passionate about encouraging the exploration of Columbus through expansion of greenways corridors and enjoyment of green space. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) plays a key role in helping to influence public policy, including encouraging redevelopment of blighted properties.

4. Project Benefits (30 pts)

a. Health and Welfare and Environment (10 pts)

As noted earlier, the targeted corridors (particularly Franklinton) experience high rates of asthma in children, low birth rate, chronic respiratory disease, heart disease, cancer, and diabetes. Infant mortality rate, chronic respiratory disease, and accidental deaths are more than twice the rate of impacts in Ohio and elsewhere in Franklin County. Many of these health issues are related to a sedentary life style because area residents do not have easy access to activities that promote a healthier approach to life. By identifying specific sites that can be revitalized as trailheads and access points to the regional trails that are present within these corridors, access becomes easier and neighborhood residents will enjoy safe venues to walk, bike, and engage in other beneficial physical activities. Among the findings from various studies:

- In Missouri, 55 percent of trail users are exercising more now than before they had access to a trail (Browson, "Promoting and Evaluating Walking Trails in Rural Missouri, 1999)
- Physical activity helps control weight, prevent heart disease, controls cholesterol levels and diabetes, slows bone loss associated with advancing age, lowers the risk of certain cancers, and reduces anxiety and depression (US Department of Health and Human Services, *Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity*, 2001)

Metro Parks is especially interested in the expansion of multipurpose paths, and a common theme of all three brownfield corridors is "trails". Previous trail construction has resulted in increased economic opportunities for specialty stores, such as bike shops, in other parts of Columbus. Annually over 100,000 participants are taking part in Metro Parks' Commit to Be Fit and Winter Hike Series that are held on trails elsewhere in the community.

Cleaning up vacant properties and abandoned buildings will have a huge impact on the environment in terms of being a source of community pride, increasing property values, reducing

pollution, and potentially serving as a catalyst for relocation of businesses and residents to the corridors. In Philadelphia, after police helped neighbors clean up vacant lots and plant gardens, burglary and theft in that neighborhood dropped by 90% (Healing America's Cities, 1994).

b. *Environmental Benefits from Infrastructure Reuse/Sustainable Reuse(10 pts)*

This grant will be used to reestablish vibrant, equitable, and healthy communities, eliminate blight and increase the quality of life for residents, promote walkable communities, and create opportunities for sustainable development. At the most basic level, brownfield redevelopment is a land recycling initiative. Our targeted brownfields have access to existing infrastructure such as roads, mass transit, and water and sanitary sewer utilities. Reuse eliminates the need to build entirely new infrastructure systems and supports "Smart Growth" principles of denser, more urban development, with walkable, mixed use communities and encourage less reliance on cars and more reliance on convenient and efficient public transportation system, reducing impacts on air quality.

The Coalition will strongly encourage the recycling and reuse of demolition debris and will utilize U.S. EPA best practices in demolition debris management. Additionally, we are working with the Columbus Department of Sewers and Drains (CDS&D) to begin discussions on incorporating sustainable storm water management practices into brownfield site designs. This will help the CDS&D meet Ohio and U.S. EPA requirements. Priority will be given to sites with end uses that could serve as demonstration projects in the areas of energy conservation, use of recycled materials, green buildings, etc.

c. *Economic or non-Economic Long Term Benefits*

A primary factor that will be considered during the site selection process will be the ability of a property to provide economic benefit for the community in the form of leveraging private investment, providing jobs, and contributing to the local tax base. A City of Columbus analysis of recent Clean Ohio projects identified \$10 million in economic impact for every \$1 million invested in cleanup, development of 2,000 construction jobs, creation of 7,000 permanent jobs, and generation of \$14.6 million in annual tax revenues. Redevelopment of priority abandoned and underutilized commercial and industrial sites in our target areas will reduce the disproportionate impact on home values, provide additional housing and retail opportunities, create jobs and draw residents and visitors back into the urban core, increase the tax base and revenues to local governments and schools. Consolidation of smaller brownfields sites (e.g., dry cleaners, car repair shops, etc.) will result in the creation of new, larger parcels that will be more attractive to developers and businesses. As the brownfield sites are redeveloped, young professionals and (in the case of Wonderland) artists will be attracted, diversifying the work force, and attracting additional service and retail development, further revitalizing the area and improving both the income and property tax base.

In terms of non-Economic Long Term Benefits, acquisition and development of trailheads and other greenspace will also enhance the community and quality of life for residents and serve to attract visitors to these areas.

5. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance (40 points)

a. *Programmatic Capability (24 pts)*

Representing Metro Parks, Deputy Director Lawrence Peck will be serving as the lead contact person. Larry has over 30 years of project management experience and has been the project manager for the revitalization of Whittier Peninsula into Scioto Audubon Metro Park.

Under his direction, Metro Parks has applied for and successfully expended all funds for US EPA and Clean Ohio grants including assessment grants including \$200,000 US EPA Brownfields Hazardous Substance Assessment Grant, \$742,000 Clean Ohio Assessment Fund Grant, \$200,000 US EPA Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund, and \$1.5M Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund. Additional Metro Park staff with grant experience will be involved in the program including members of the Finance, Resource Management and Design Departments.

Representing the City of Columbus will be Michael Loges, a Business Development Specialist with the City's Department of Development. Michael has extensive experience preparing tax incentive and financing packages to attract new business and to retain and expand existing businesses in conjunction with the JobsOhio program, the state's private, nonprofit organization that promotes job creation and economic development. Michael has overseen the administration of a half dozen active Clean Ohio grants awarded to the City of Columbus in support of assessment, remediation, and redevelopment projects. Support from other City Departments including Economic Development, Planning, and Code Enforcement Divisions will be available throughout the grant term.

Representing Franklin County will be James Schimmer, Director of the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department. Mr. Schimmer has over twenty years of senior management experience in urban economic development focusing on downtown development, civic project construction, neighborhood revitalization, economic development public policy, historic preservation and sustainable development. A team of 9 professional planners, economic development specialists, code enforcement officers and Geographic Information Systems specialists will be available to assist the Coalition.

In selecting an environmental consultant, Metro Parks will take the lead and develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) that will be formally advertised in appropriate venues. Coalition members will review the RFP and participate in the evaluation of received proposals based on experience, proposed costs, schedule to complete different assessments (Phase 1, Phase 2, Risk Assessment), and other factors. One consultant will handle the entire community assessment program allowing for maximum efficiency and coordination.

The coalition has developed a draft site application form (Attachment C) that will include site location, size, known environmental history, significance of the project from environmental and economic standpoint, any prior assessment information, ownership (clean hands), potential job creation, certainty of redevelopment, leveraging from private investments, exposure potentials, extent of contamination, vacancy status, benefits to low income areas, and known end use if applicable. This site selection form may be amended following further discussion with community organizations. Interested parties will submit an application to the appropriate coalition member. The application will be formally evaluated consistent with established criteria by all coalition members. If selected, the certified professional will then begin the assessment process. Information on the assessments will be forwarded to Metro Parks.

The coalition partners will meet as needed to evaluate applications. The projected timeline for the assessment grant is: April 2014 Approval from US EPA, May 2014 Site application is finalized/RFP for environmental consultant developed/the site application and program is introduced to the community and initial applications are accepted to coalition members, July 2014 the certified professional is selected, August 2014 the first round of applications are accepted and assessment work begins.

Milestones the Coalition has mutually agreed on is as follows: By October 2014 50% of funds available are assigned to specific sites, by January 2015 75% of funds available are assigned to specific sites, by June 2015 100% of funds available are assigned to specific sites. By December 2015, 100% of funds available are spent and assessments completed.

b. Audit Findings (2 points)

Coalition members are unaware of any adverse audit findings in accordance with any grants. All grants awarded to Metro Parks have been fully expended before the grant deadline. Metro Parks and their environmental consultant have met quarterly performance and technical reporting, including ACRES reporting in a timely and accurate manner.

c. Past Performance and Accomplishments (14 points)

1. Compliance with grant requirements (7 pts)

A strength of having Metro Parks serve as the Lead Coalition member lies in our experience with successfully executing US EPA brownfield assessment grants, as well as various cleanup grants during the development of Scioto Audubon Metro Park. Metro Parks has applied for and successfully expended all funds for US EPA and Clean Ohio grants including assessment grants including \$200,000 US EPA Brownfields Hazardous Substance Assessment Grant (BF-00E00418-0), \$742,000 Clean Ohio Assessment Fund Grant, \$200,000 US EPA Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund, and \$1.5M Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund. Regarding the US EPA Assessment Grant, all funds were expended within a timely manner and consistent with grant terms and conditions. Accomplishments were reflected in ACRES reporting. There were no funds remaining at the closure of the US EPA Assessment Grant.

2. Accomplishments (7 pts)

The previous USEPA Assessment Grant was used to perform VAP Phase I, Phase II ESAs and to develop a risk assessment and remediation plan for 80 acres of the park referred to as "Southern Tier" which served as the site for the City's Impound Lot. All assessments were completed and served as the basis for a Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund Grant of \$1.5 Million which funded environmental remediation consistent with the plan. In 2013, facility development was undertaken including multiuse trails, a parking lot, restroom, picnic shelters, obstacle course, and natural prairie restoration. Additional development is planned in 2014. A No Further Action Letter under the VAP program should be completed in January or February of 2014 and submitted to the Ohio EPA. The previously mentioned park features are open to the public.

Metro Parks' Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan was used to complete assessment activities on the "Northern Tier" of the Whittier Peninsula and resulted in successful completion of the MOA track for that portion of the property (a total of three NFAs and Covenants Not to Sue are already in place on the Whittier Peninsula).

The City of Columbus has been awarded 18 Clean Ohio Revitalization or Assistance Fund grants totaling almost \$27 million. The Gowdy Field project (a former garden, athletic field, and landfill) located south of The Ohio State University has led to the retention or creation of over 1,200 jobs including Time Warner Cable's regional headquarters, a state-of-the art data center and OSU's Medical Center Eye and Ear Institute. The AC Humko/Harrison West project converted the site of a margarine and soybean processing plant into a vibrant housing complex.

List of Attachments

Attachment A: Memorandum of Agreement and Legislation to apply for grant

Attachment B: Letters of Support-BUSTR and OEPA

Attachment C: Draft Site Application

Attachment D: Public Meeting Information

Attachment E: Letters of Support

Attachment F: Prior correspondence on Metro Parks eligibility for brownfield
assessment

RESOLUTION NO. 5403

AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN A COMMUNITY BASED ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT GRANT PROGRAM WITH U.S. EPA

WHEREAS, Metro Parks has experience working in the area of environmental assessment and cleanup at Scioto Audubon and other sites within Metro Parks and has successfully submitted applications and completed assessment projects funded through USEPA grants; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks has been approached to participate as a partner and potentially the lead agency, based on our past success, in a Community Based Coalition Environmental Assessment Grant Program administered by USEPA along with Franklin County and the City of Columbus; and

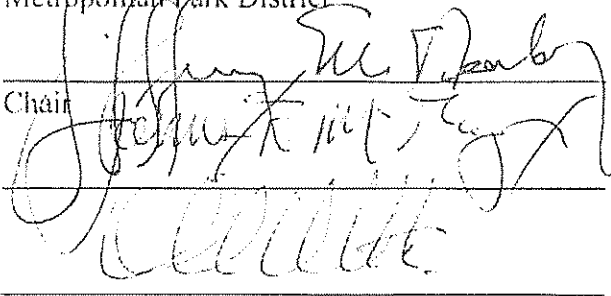
WHEREAS, a successful application in the competitive process that is involved in this project would bring \$1 Million to Central Ohio public agencies for the assessment of brownfields and former industrial sites, including some that have a future end use of park and public open space; and

WHEREAS, participation in this program would foster existing partnerships and provide for expanded partnerships with other government entities in Central Ohio; Now, Therefore,


BE IT RESOLVED by this Board of Park Commissioners of the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District that authorization is given to enter into a Coalition partnership with other government entities to pursue a Community Based Coalition Environmental Assessment Grant through the US EPA and submit an application for these funds.

Adopted this 8th day of October 2013.

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
Columbus and Franklin County
Metropolitan Park District

Chair 

Attest:


Executive Director



City of Columbus

Office of City Clerk
90 West Broad Street
Columbus OH 43215-9015
columbuscitycouncil.org

Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 0009-2014 **Version:** 1

Type: Ordinance **Status:** Passed

File created: 12/17/2013 **In control:** Development Committee

On agenda: 1/13/2014 **Final action:** 1/15/2014

Title: To authorize the Director of the Department of Development to apply to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a Community-wide Coalition Environmental Assessment Grant and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with Franklin County and Metro Parks; and to declare an emergency.

Sponsors:

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
1/15/2014	1	CITY CLERK	Attest	
1/14/2014	1	MAYOR	Signed	
1/13/2014	1	COUNCIL PRESIDENT	Signed	
1/13/2014	1	Columbus City Council	Approved	Pass

BACKGROUND: This legislation authorizes the Director of the Department of Development to apply to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a Community-wide Coalition Environmental Assessment Grant and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with Franklin County and the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District (hereinafter "Metro Parks").

The City of Columbus has been approached to participate as a partner in a Community-wide Coalition Environmental Assessment Grant application along with Franklin County and Metro Parks.

The parties intend to complete and submit an application for a Community-wide Coalition Environmental Assessment Grant. The Memorandum of Agreement is needed to facilitate and implement the goals of the grant application. Metro Parks will serve as the lead applicant for the Community-wide Coalition Environmental Assessment Grant. The successful funding of the application would support the work to develop inventories of brownfields, prioritize sites, conduct community involvement activities, and conduct site assessments and cleanup planning related to brownfield sites.

This legislation is submitted as an emergency measure in order to meet the grant application deadline.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact for this legislation.

To authorize the Director of the Department of Development to apply to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a Community-wide Coalition Environmental Assessment Grant and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with Franklin County and Metro Parks; and to declare an emergency.

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus, Franklin County, and Metro Parks desire to jointly complete and submit an application for a Community-wide Coalition Environmental Assessment Grant; and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks will serve as the lead applicant for the Community-wide Coalition Environmental Assessment Grant; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus, Franklin County, and Metro Parks have experience working in the area of environmental assessment and cleanup at several sites within Franklin County and the City of Columbus and have successfully submitted applications and completed assessment projects funded through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus has been approached to participate as a partner, based on past brownfield assessment and development successes, in a Community-wide Coalition Environmental Assessment Grant application along with Franklin County and Metro Parks; and

WHEREAS, a successful application through the competitive review process could result in an award of up to \$1,000,000 to Central Ohio public agencies for the assessment of brownfields and past industrial sites; and

WHEREAS, the Memorandum of Agreement is not intended to be a legally binding document; and

WHEREAS, the Memorandum of Agreement is a document which outlines how the parties intend to collaborate if the grant is awarded; and

WHEREAS, participation in this Program would further foster existing partnerships and provide for expanded partnerships with other government entities in Central Ohio; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the City of Columbus whereby it is immediately necessary to authorize the Director of the Department of Development to apply to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a Community-wide Coalition Environmental Assessment Grant and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with Franklin County and Metro Parks in order to meet the grant application deadline, thereby preserving the public health, peace, property, safety and welfare; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

Section 1. That the Director of the Department of Development is hereby authorized to apply to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a Community-wide Coalition Environmental Assessment Grant and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with Franklin County and Metro Parks in conjunction with the grant application for up to \$1,000,000 for the assessment of brownfields and past industrial sites.

Section 2. That the Council of the City of Columbus authorizes the Director of the Department of Development to serve as the official representative of the City of Columbus application to participate in the Program, and provide all information and documentation required in said Application for the submission to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Section 3. That the Director of the Department of Development is authorized to participate in the Program, comply with program guidelines, and provide necessary assurances.

Section 4. That for reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor or ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.

Resolution No. 0839-13

November 12, 2013

Resolution agreeing to participate in an Assessment Coalition partnership to pursue a Community-based Environmental Assessment Grant (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING)

WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection Agency administers Assessment Coalition Grants through the EPA Brownfields Program; and

WHEREAS, The Assessment Coalition must be comprised of three or more eligible entities; and

WHEREAS, Franklin County is an eligible entity to participate in the Brownfields Program and Franklin County has been approached to participate as a partner in the program with the city of Columbus and the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District; and

WHEREAS, Assessment Coalition Grants must be used to conduct environmental assessments of properties where the redevelopment or reuse of the property may be complicated by the presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants; and

WHEREAS, a Coalition Grant can help promote economic development, environmental sustainability and collaborative partnerships; and

WHEREAS, Completing an environmental assessment is the first step in turning unproductive sites into productive uses; and

WHEREAS, given the importance of identifying, remediating and redeveloping potentially polluted or contaminated properties on the public health, safety, welfare and economy of Franklin County; now, therefore, upon motion of Commissioner Paula Brooks, and seconded by Commissioner John O'Grady,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO:

1. That the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County do hereby agree to participate in an Assessment Coalition partnership with other government entities to pursue a Community-based Environmental Assessment Grant through the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Prepared by: Matt Brown

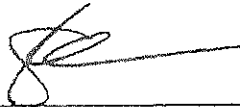
Cc: Economic Development & Planning Department

SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS

SIGNATURE SHEET

Resolution No. 0839-13

November 12, 2013

**RESOLUTION AGREEING TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ASSESSMENT COALITION
PARTNERSHIP TO PURSUE A COMMUNITY-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT GRANT****(Economic Development and
Planning)**Upon the motion of Commissioner Paula Brooks, seconded by Commissioner John
O'Grady:**Voting:**John O'Grady, President
Paula BrooksAye
AyeBoard of County Commissioners
Franklin County, Ohio**CERTIFICATE OF CLERK**IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript
of a resolution acted upon by the Board of County Commissioners, Franklin
County, Ohio on the date noted above.

Shannon Z Cross, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Franklin County, Ohio

Resolution No. 0056-14

January 21, 2014

**Resolution authorizing the USEPA Coalition Assessment Grant
Memorandum of Agreement (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
PLANNING)**

WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection Agency administers Assessment Coalition Grants through the EPA Brownfields Program; and

WHEREAS, Assessment Coalitions must be comprised of three or more eligible entities; and

WHEREAS, Franklin County is an eligible entity to participate in the Brownfields Program and Franklin County has been approached to participate as a partner in the program with the city of Columbus and the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District; and

WHEREAS, Assessment Coalition Grants must be used to conduct environmental assessments of properties where the redevelopment or reuse of the property may be complicated by the presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants; and

WHEREAS, a Coalition Grant can help promote economic development, environmental sustainability and collaborative partnerships; and

WHEREAS, completing an environmental assessment is the first step in turning unproductive sites into productive uses; and

WHEREAS, given the importance of identifying, remediating and redeveloping potentially polluted or contaminated properties on the public health, safety, welfare and economy of Franklin County; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO:**

1. That the attached USEPA Coalition Assessment Grant Memorandum of Agreement is hereby approved.
2. That the Director of the Economic Development and Planning Department is authorized to act on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners to implement the provisions of the attached Memorandum of Agreement.

Prepared by: Matt Brown

Cc: Economic Development & Planning Department

SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS

(A)

SIGNATURE SHEET

Resolution No. 0056-14

January 21, 2014

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USEPA COALITION ASSESSMENT GRANT
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**(Economic Development and
Planning)**

Upon the motion of Commissioner John O'Grady, seconded by Commissioner Paula Brooks:

Voting:

Marilyn Brown, President	Aye
Paula Brooks	Aye
John O'Grady	Aye

Board of County Commissioners
Franklin County, Ohio

CERTIFICATE OF CLERK

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution acted upon by the Board of County Commissioners, Franklin County, Ohio on the date noted above.

Mary Jane Harper
Mary Jane Harper, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Franklin County, Ohio

USEPA COALITION ASSESSMENT GRANT

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE COLUMBUS AND FRANKLIN COUNTY METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO, AND THE CITY OF COLUMBUS

WHEREAS, an application for an environmental assessment grant ("Coalition Grant") (the "Application") will be submitted by the Greater Columbus Coalition (an association composed of the "Coalition Partners" including the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, the Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, Ohio, and the City of Columbus Department of Development) to the U.S. EPA.

WHEREAS, the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District ("Metro Parks") will be designated in the application as the "Lead Coalition Member", and as such, is willing to administer the Coalition Grant on behalf of the other Coalition Partners and has authorized its Executive Director to enter into agreements and execute all documents with the Coalition Partners necessary to participate in the Coalition and implement the grant;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, Ohio is granted authority by Ohio Revised Code Section 307.15 and 307.85 to enter into agreements and execute all documents with the Coalition Partners necessary to participate in the Coalition and implement the grant;

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus, through its Department of Development has been authorized to execute the Agreement by Ordinance No. 0009-2014, and to further execute all documents with the Coalition Partners necessary to participate in the Coalition and implement the grant;

WHEREAS, the U.S. EPA has required the Coalition Partners to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement, prior to the expenditure of any Coalition Grant funds, to set forth the various responsibilities of the partners and to document the Coalition's site selection process;

WHEREAS, all three Coalition Members have working relationships including but not limited to previous brownfield projects and partnerships throughout the community, and will collectively put together the U.S. EPA Coalition Assessment Grant application;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises made in this Agreement, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and adequacy of which is hereby acknowledged, the Coalition Partners agree as follows:

1. GRANT AWARD. On receipt of grant award, Metro Parks will be responsible to the U.S. EPA for management of the Cooperative Agreement and compliance with the statutes, regulations, and terms and conditions of the award, and ensuring that all members of the coalition are in compliance with the terms and conditions.

2. **LEAD COALITION MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES.** It is the responsibility of Metro Parks to provide timely information to the other Coalition Partners regarding the management of the Cooperative Agreement and any changes that may be made to the Cooperative Agreement over the period of performance. Metro Parks shall provide information to the other Coalition Partners through each Partner's designated representative as identified below. Acceptable means of communication include email, phone, fax or other correspondence.
3. **COMMUNICATIONS.** The Coalition Partners include Metro Parks, the City of Columbus Department of Development, and the Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, Ohio. The contact information is as follows:

Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District
 1069 W. Main Street, Westerville, Ohio 43081
 Designated Representative: Lawrence J. Peck, Deputy Director of Metro Parks
 Phone: (614) 895-6236
 Email: peck@metroparks.net

Franklin County
 150 S. Front St., FSL Suite 10, Columbus, OH 43215
 Designated Representative: James Schimmer, Director
 Economic Development and Planning
 Phone: (614) 525-7301
 E-mail: jrschimm@franklincountyohio.gov

City of Columbus Department of Development
 50 W. Gay Street, Columbus, OH 43215
 Designated Representative: Michael J. Loges, Business Development Specialist
 Phone: (614) 645-8644; Mobile: (614) 743-1062
 E-mail: MJLoges@columbus.gov

4. **GRANT ACTIVITIES.** Activities funded through the cooperative agreement may include site selection criteria development, assessments, planning (including cleanup planning) relating to brownfield sites, outreach materials and implementation, training, and other eligible activities.
5. **CONTRACTING ENTITY.** Metro Parks shall enter into all contracts with consultants and contractors under Metro Parks Cooperative Purchasing Agreements and in conjunction with Metro Parks bylaws, to undertake various activities funded through the Cooperative Agreement.
6. **CONSULTANT/CONTRACTOR SELECTION.** The Lead Coalition Member will procure the environmental consultant in compliance with 40 CFR 31 requirements. The Lead Coalition Member will issue the Request for Proposals or Request for Qualifications and will be the entity responsible for receipt of the submitted proposals, selection, and award of contracts. The Lead Coalition Member will consult with the other Coalition Members in drafting Request for Proposals or Request for Qualifications and in making selection of consultant or contractor(s)

- prior to consultant award. Metro Parks shall have final decision making authority with regard to the selection of consultant and contractor(s).
7. **SITE SELECTION PROCESS.** The Coalition Partners shall agree to the number of sites that will be assessed over the life of the Cooperative Agreement. Selected sites will be submitted by the Lead Coalition Member to the U.S. EPA for prior approval to ensure eligibility. Coalition Partners agree that the sites to receive grant funding shall be selected using the factors and criteria developed at the outset of this program by consensus of the Coalition Members.
 8. **PERMITS AND ACCESS.** Upon designation of the specific sites, it will be the responsibility of Metro Parks to work with the U.S. EPA to finalize the scope of work for the consultant or contractor. It will be the responsibility of the entity submitting an application to the Coalition to obtain all required permits, easements, and/or access agreements as may be necessary to undertake assessments at the selected sites.
 9. **WORKPLAN.** The Lead Coalition Member is responsible for ensuring that other activities as negotiated in the work plan to be submitted to the U.S. EPA by the Coalition Partners are completed.
 10. **REIMBURSEMENTS.** Each Coalition Partner shall submit a request to Metro Parks, for U.S. EPA approval, prior to expenditure of any Supplies or Travel/Training fund reimbursement. After U.S. EPA approval, the Coalition Partner member shall provide to Metro Parks, as fiscal agent for this grant, an itemized invoice and receipts for eligible project related expenses incurred by the member for the supplies and travel training, and such other documentation as may be required to the U.S. EPA or under the terms of the Cooperative Agreement.
 11. **LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.** The Coalition Partners acknowledge and agree that if the U.S. EPA for any reason terminates the Cooperative Agreement or fails or refuses to fund any contract entered into for environmental assessment, or fails or refuses to authorize reimbursement for any expense incurred by a Coalition Partner, or fails or refuses to allocate funds for any site selected by the Coalition or to any applicant, no Coalition Partner shall be liable to the other Coalition Partners for any costs, expenses, liabilities, or damages, including attorneys' fees.
 12. **COUNTERPARTS.** This Memorandum of Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, and such counterparts shall constitute one and the same instrument.
 13. **TIME OF PERFORMANCE.** The project period shall commence on the date of award to the Coalition and will have funds and assessments completed within three years from the date of award. In the event the work required to be completed under the terms and provisions of the scope of services is not completed, then Metro Parks shall take the necessary steps with the U.S. EPA to secure additional time if required and necessary to complete said project.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, after due authorization, the parties have each caused this Agreement to be duly executed as of _____.

(signatures on following pages)

FRANKLIN COUNTY

By: Marilyn Brown
President, Board of Commissioners

Date: Jan. 21, 2014

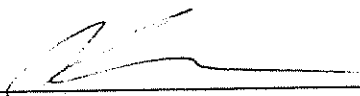
The Legal form and correctness
Of this Agreement is hereby
Approved.

County Prosecutor

By: [Signature] 1-16-14

Date: _____

**COLUMBUS AND FRANKLIN COUNTY
METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT,**

By: 
John R. O'Meara, acting for and on behalf of the
Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park
District

Date: 1/21/14

CITY OF COLUMBUS DEPARTMENT OF
DEVELOPMENT,

By: [Signature]
[Name], acting for and on behalf of the
City of Columbus Department of Development

Date: 01/15/2014

The Legal form and correctness
Of this Agreement is hereby
Approved.

General Counsel Information

By: [Signature]
Date: 1/15/14



John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Craig W. Butler, Interim Director

January 10, 2014

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
Brownfields and Early Action Section
ATTN: Linda Mangrum and Kelley Moore
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Mail Code SM-7J
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

RE: Greater Columbus Coalition Community-Wide Assessment Grant Proposal

Dear Ms. Mangrum and Ms. Moore:

I am pleased to offer the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's support for the Greater Columbus Coalition Grant Application. The Coalition, consisting of the City of Columbus, Franklin County, and the Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, is applying for a Brownfields Community-wide Assessment Grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency in the amount of \$600,000. We have worked with the City of Columbus and Franklin County in the past and hope to be able to provide support to the Coalition under the Assessment, Cleanup and Revolving Loan Fund Grant program established by the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfield Revitalization Act (P.L. 107-118).

The funding the Coalition is requesting under their community-wide assessment grant proposal will be used to provide environmental due diligence assistance for properties in close proximity to environmental justice residential neighborhoods and to undergo economic development, where redevelopment is held up due to environmental stigma. The Coalition has tentatively identified more than 50 properties within the three focus corridors of Franklin County, which include some of the oldest industrial properties in the City. If awarded, this funding would allow the Coalition to continue their efforts within these corridors to revitalize them by increasing job opportunities and creating more opportunities for physical fitness through the enhancement of the existing bike trails.

We look forward to working with the Greater Columbus Coalition and U.S. EPA on this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 614-644-2285.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Yersavich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Amy Yersavich, Manager

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Site Assistance and Brownfield Revitalization

cc: Lawrence Peck, Deputy Director, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, Greater Columbus Coalition
Team Leader

Debbie Strayton, Ohio EPA, DERR/CDO



**Department
of Commerce**

Division of State Fire Marshal
John R. Kasich, Governor
David Goodman, Director

January 7, 2014

Ms. Linda Mangrum
U.S. EPA Brownfield Contact, Region 5
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Mail Code SM-7J
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Subject: Letter of Support for Greater Columbus Coalition - USEPA Community Wide
Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant proposal

Dear Ms. Mangrum:

This letter acknowledges that the Greater Columbus Coalition, which is comprised of the City of Columbus, Franklin County and the Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, notified the Office of the Fire Marshal, Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) of its plans to use \$400,000 of the larger \$600,000 grant proposal for a community-wide brownfield assessment for petroleum waste. The remainder of the proposed grant amount will be used for hazardous substances investigation. The Coalition has identified nearly 50 sites within the three focus corridors of Franklin County for consideration of environmental due diligence. The three focus corridors are Franklinton/Broad Street, Berliner Park and the State Route 104 industrial corridor, which includes some of the oldest industrial properties in the City of Columbus.

This project is a part of a redevelopment project in Franklin County. The completion of the inventory, assessment, and subsequent environmental work will benefit the future citizens/workers by providing a healthier work environment. The Brownfield task force has identified approximately 50 sites, to encourage greater investment in the corridors and create more opportunities for the increase physical fitness of residents of Franklin County through the enhancement of the existing bike trails.

These focus areas contain some of the oldest industrial properties within the City as well as older housing stock, with many homes built to house the industrial and railroad workers in the 1920s through 1940. According to the 2010 Census, more than 75 percent of the housing stock was built prior to 1940. This is also among the more economically disadvantaged areas of the City, with nearly 60 percent of the residents living below the poverty line.

Page 2
January 7, 2014
U.S. EPA, Region 5

I am pleased to offer BUSTR's support for Greater Columbus Coalition's Community Wide Brownfield Assessment Grant proposal. We look forward to working with the City of Columbus, Franklin County and the Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks and the U.S.EPA on this project.

Sincerely,



Verne A. Ord
Assistant Chief – BUSTR
Division of State Fire Marshal
Ohio Department of Commerce

xc: Site File
Lawrence Peck, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks

SAMPLE SITE APPLICATION

The following are required building or site data for consideration of a Phase I, Phase II, or Risk Assessment by the Greater Columbus Coalition using funds from the 2014 US EPA Brownfield Assessment Community-Wide Coalition Grant. Please answer below or provide additional documents to fully complete application.

Building or Site Name:

Building or Site Address:

Latitude:

Longitude:

Current Owner:

Year Purchased:

Building Type:

Zoning:

Year Built (Building Only):

Total Square Footage of Existing Structures:

Total Acreage:

Adjacent acreage available? If so, please list acreage:

Expandable? If yes, to what square footage:

For Lease/Sale? Yes/No?

Lease Price and Lease Type

Sale Price

Multi-Tenant? Yes/No

Vacant? Yes/No

Is there current approval to access the site for assessment work? Yes/No

If no, please list potential means to allow access and timeframe:

Previous Use:

Property Description (please be as detailed as possible, include site history and current description):

Please list any previous assessment work performed and in what year:

Please list any exposure potentials or Chemicals of Concern which may or are known to be present:

Is an end use known for the property? If so, please describe:

Are there public or private dollars dedicated to the end use?

THE DAILY REPORTER

www.thedailyreporteronline.com

580 South High Street • Suite 316
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5644
(614) 224-4835
FAX (614) 224-8649
email: cdr@sourcenews.com

Proof of Publication 12/24/2013

METRO PARKS
KAY FRENCH
1069 W MAIN ST
WESTERVILLE OH 43081

Public Meeting
Columbus & Franklin Cty. Metropolitan Park District
1/7/14

Total public notice charge: \$ 22.00

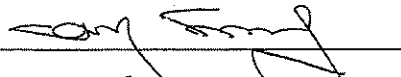
STATE OF OHIO
Franklin County, Ohio, ss.

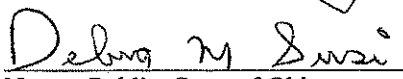
SHERRY SCHWEINFURTH

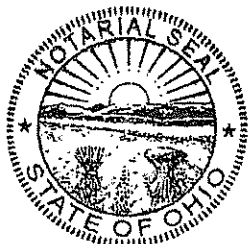
On behalf of THE DAILY REPORTER, a newspaper
published in Franklin County, Ohio, makes oath that
the attached printed advertisement was published 1
time(s) in said newspaper i.e., on

December 24, 2013

and that said newspaper is of general circulation in said
County.


Subscribed and sworn to this 24th day of December, 2013.


Notary Public, State of Ohio



DEBRA M. SUSI
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Expires
03-22-2018

Notice of Public Meeting

Notice is hereby given that
the Columbus and Franklin
County Metropolitan Park
District will hold a public
meeting on a proposed US
EPA Brownfield Coalition
Assessment Grant on
Tuesday, January 7, 2014
from 4-6pm at the Scioto
Audubon Metro Park Office,
400 W. Whittier Street,
Columbus, OH 43215. The
purpose of this public meet-
ing is to allow input into the
application and planning
process for brownfield site
assessment work. All persons
interested in the Assessment
Grant are invited to attend
and express their views.
Dec 24

COMMUNITY COALITION ASSESSMENT GRANT OPEN HOUSE/AVAILABILITY

GRANGE INSURANCE AUDUBON CENTER JANUARY 7, 2014 4:00-6:00 PM

Purpose: The City of Columbus, Franklin County, and Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks have formed a partnership to develop an application for a 2014 U.S. EPA Brownfield Coalition Community-Wide Assessment Grant. This grant could be for as much as \$600,000 and would fund Phase 1 and Phase 2 Environmental Assessments as well as site specific Risk Assessments.

As part of the grant, we have identified 3 target areas (West Broad Street/Franklinton Corridor, SR 104 Corridor, and the Scioto River/Berliner Park Corridor) where grant funds could be used to enhance both the environmental and economic potential for numerous sites. In addition, grant funds could be used for assessment of sites outside of these target areas within Franklin County. Having funds available for assessments would accelerate the redevelopment of specific properties into viable public or private uses which will enhance the overall community.

The grant application is due later in January and members of the partnership are available to discuss this project. Grants would be available beginning in the 3rd Quarter of 2014 and could fund assessment projects in 2014, 2015, and 2016. Specifically, we want to provide an opportunity for members of the public directly and indirectly impacted by this proposed project to:

- Learn about the grant and the partnership
- Identify potential opportunities for use of grant funds if the application is successful, both within the targeted areas and also throughout Franklin County
- Provide input into criteria that might be used by the partnership in evaluating potential assessment sites.
- Provide letters of support of the grant application if the community member is so inclined. Letters of support should be mailed before January 15, 2014 to Deputy Director Larry Peck, Metro Parks, 1069 W. Main St., Westerville, OH 43081.

Representatives from the City of Columbus, Franklin County, Metro Parks, and environmental consultants will be at this event discussing the grant and its possibilities. Comments will be accepted from interested parties at the open house/public availability and also after the meeting.

e

Tuesday, January 7, 2014 4-6PM
Grange Insurance Audubon Center Columbus, OH

Public Meeting for
US EPA Brownfield Community-Wide Coalition Assessment Grant
SIGN IN SHEET

NAME	ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING OR PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
1. Melissa Turpening	Metro Parks	turpening@metroparks.net	614-895-6207
2. Larry Peck	Metro Parks	peck@metroparks.net	614-895-6236
3. David Chew	GIAC - Audubon	dchew@Audubon.org	614-545-5480
4. Bruce Mansfield	Burgess & Niple	bruce.mansfield@burgessniple.org	614-459-2050
5. Matt Brown	Franklin County	mybrown@franklincountyohio.gov	614-525-5647
6. SHARRY, CAREY @YAHOO.COM	HILLTOP COMMISSION	<	614 581-4629
7. Rachael Esh	GIAC	eshr212@gmail.com	

8. Jim Sweeney Franklin Development Association jmsweeney@franklindev.org 275-4788

9. Pam Alcorny B & J

10. Michael Loges City of Columbus mloges@columbus.gov 614 645-8104

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.



909 W Rich Street • Columbus, Ohio 43222 • (614) 233-1887 • info@franklintongardens.org
www.franklintongardens.org

January 17, 2014

Mr. Lawrence Peck, Deputy Director
Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks
1069 West Main Street
Westerville, Ohio 43081-1181

Re: Letter of Support for the Greater Columbus Coalition's USEPA Assessment Grant Application

Dear Mr. Peck,

Franklinton Gardens strongly supports the Coalition's efforts to obtain a USEPA grant for the environmental assessment of brownfield properties in the Franklinton neighborhood of Columbus.

Franklinton Gardens is a not for profit organization which operates community gardens in the Franklinton neighborhood. Franklinton is one of the lowest income communities in the City of Columbus. Located immediately west of the CBD, the neighborhood has experienced significant economic disinvestment over the past three decades, which has resulted in high commercial and residential vacancies, urban blight and poverty. Franklinton is a food desert and our organization, staffed by residents and community volunteers, operates a network of local gardens located throughout the neighborhood in yards and vacant lots to raise and provide fresh nourishing food to area residents. Our produce is donated to local food pantries and sold at a nominal price to local residents at two produce stands in Franklinton. Our urban agricultural practices are organic and sustainable.

We have a keen interest in the assessment, remediation and potential demolition of properties in our neighborhood both from an economic development standpoint and the potential expansion of our gardens through possible property acquisition. The funding from this grant will be an important first step.

As a grassroots neighborhood organization, we will certainly do all we can to support the activities of this grant and work with our other local supporters to secure additional resources for further development of our neighborhood brownfields for sustainable urban agricultural use.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Meribah Mansfield, Chair
Board of Directors



January 20, 2014

Mr. John O'Meara
Executive Director
Franklin County Metro Parks
1069 W. Main Street
Westerville, OH 43081

To whom it may concern:

This letter is on behalf of the Sierra Club Central Ohio Group, comprised of 3,200 members throughout 21 counties, in support of Columbus and Franklin County Metro Park's application for US EPA Brownfield Community-Wide Coalition Assessment Grant for blighted properties within Franklin County.

Utilizing the awarded monies would facilitate the Greater Columbus Coalition to renew and convert presently unavailable, polluted urban properties to provide expanded greenway corridors, waterways, parklands, and additional outdoor opportunities for the public to freely use, enjoy and explore.

This type of revitalization project goes hand-in-hand with Sierra Club's environmental mission to "explore, enjoy and protect the planet." We commend and enthusiastically support this application's plans that will improve and expand public green space.

Sincerely,

David Roseman

Chair
Sierra Club Central Ohio Group



Franklinton
Development
Association

James Schimmer, Director
Franklin County Economic Development and Planning
250 S. Front St., PSI Suite 10
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: USEPA Coalition Assessment Grant

Dear Director Schimmer:

I am writing in support of the Greater Columbus Coalition USEPA Grant application. I understand that one of the application's focus areas is Franklinton which is appropriate as Franklinton was the first settlement in Franklin County, founded in 1797, and is the last downtown neighborhood to see revitalization.

The Franklinton Development Association is the community development corporation serving Franklinton. Our mission is stabilize and positively impact the Franklinton neighborhood through housing, economic, and community development.

As the Executive Director of the Association, I am leading efforts to revitalize Franklinton through real estate projects and community initiatives designed to reshape the built landscape, especially around quality and affordable housing, but also the perceived landscape of the community. In a community that did not see the creation of a single new house in over 80-years, the Association has created or helped create over 150 new or rehabbed affordable housing units - most of which are strategically located to support revitalization.

Our efforts in housing cannot by themselves revitalize Franklinton which is beset by vacant industrial properties. These properties hamper Franklinton's revitalization and an assessment grant from the USEPA can act as a catalyst to redevelop this historic area near downtown Columbus.

The Franklinton Development Association is excited by the opportunity presented to Franklinton by this grant application and we fully support the application. Feel free to contact me if there is anything else I can do to help in this important work.

Sincerely,


Jim Sweeney
Executive Director, Franklinton Development Association

James Schimmer, Director
Franklin County Economic Development and Planning
250 S. Front St., PSI Suite 10
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: USEPA Coalition Assessment Grant

Dear Director Schimmer:

I am writing in support of the Greater Columbus Coalition USEPA Grant application. I understand that one of the application's focus areas is Franklinton which is appropriate as Franklinton was the first settlement in Franklin County, founded in 1797, and is the last downtown neighborhood to see revitalization.


The Franklinton Development Association is the community development corporation serving Franklinton. Our mission is stabilize and positively impact the Franklinton neighborhood through housing, economic, and community development.

As the Executive Director of the Association, I am leading efforts to revitalize Franklinton through real estate projects and community initiatives designed to reshape the built landscape, especially around quality and affordable housing, but also the perceived landscape of the community. In a community that did not see the creation of a single new house in over 80-years, the Association has created or helped create over 150 new or rehabbed affordable housing units - most of which are strategically located to support revitalization.

Our efforts in housing cannot by themselves revitalize Franklinton which is beset by vacant industrial properties. These properties hamper Franklinton's revitalization and an assessment grant from the USEPA can act as a catalyst to redevelop this historic area near downtown Columbus.

The Franklinton Development Association is excited by the opportunity presented to Franklinton by this grant application and we fully support the application. Feel free to contact me if there is anything else I can do to help in this important work.

Sincerely,


Jim Sweeney
Executive Director, Franklinton Development Association

Weston Vision, Inc.

Committed to the revitalization and sustained growth of the Weston district, achieved through a collaborative approach with all community stakeholders

January 10, 2014

Matt Brown
Planner & Floodplain Manager
Franklin County Economic Development & Planning Department
Lazarus Building 150 South Front Street, FSL Suite 10
Columbus, Ohio 43215-7104

Mr. Brown,

My name is Chris Haydocy and I am President of Weston Vision Inc. Weston Vision Inc. was formed soon after the Weston district earned the dubious distinction of being the "Loneliest Neighborhood in America" (May 5, 2009).

Weston Vision Inc. mission is to support specific goals which bring about economic revitalization, urban design excellence, and increases community quality of life to this challenged community.

Weston Vision Inc. mission includes:

- 1) Helping to attract the 400 million dollar Columbus Hollywood Casino to the Weston district- besides the jobs this investment involved significant brownfield remediation.
- 2) With Weston Visions help, 22 property owners donated their property to Ohio Department of Transportation so that the "West Broad Complete Street" project could be completed.
- 3) Weston Vision Inc.'s current focus/goal is to make the "Camp Chase Green Network" and "Wilson Road Urban Camp Ground" a reality. Weston Vision worked with Dr. Jesus Lara's (with Ohio State University) "academic research team" to publish the "Creating Sustainable Strategies for West Columbus". This study has been key for our redevelopment efforts.

It has recently come to our attention the potential "USEPA Assessment Coalition Grant" for the Broad Street/Sullivant Avenue Corridor. It is our understanding this investment will determine potential environmental issues along these corridors.

Redevelopment and revitalization can and will only occur if our foundation/ infrastructure are an asset and not a liability. Weston Vision Inc. strongly supports Franklin County, City of Columbus and Metro Parks efforts in obtaining these grants for the betterment of central Ohio.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Thanks



Chris Haydocy
Weston Vision Inc.

(614) 255-5816

chaydocy@haydocy.com

[\(http://thewestonvision.com/\)](http://thewestonvision.com/)

(E)

January 16, 2014

James Schimmer, Director
Franklin County Economic Development and Planning
150 S. Front St., FSL Suite 10
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: US EPA Coalition Assessment Grant

Dear Director Schimmer:

Board of Trustees:
Brady Konya
Ben Maiden
Melissa Starker
Jeff Smith
Matthew Ungar
Roy Gottlieb
Pat Wynn Brown
Jeff Houser
Kacey Campbell

Executive Director:
Adam Brouillette

I am writing in support of the Greater Columbus Coalition USEPA Grant application. Wonderland Columbus desires to develop a space that will allow working artists and creative entrepreneurs in Columbus to continue pursuing their passions. Recognizing that artists and creative organizations have begun to take root in Franklinton the Wonderland Board of Trustees wants to make Franklinton our home.

Though Franklinton is the perfect location for our group, the industrial uses of the past and the corresponding contamination of properties have proven problematic for us to establish the artistic space that we envision in the community. We have researched several options in the area and each has presented environmental issues that have hindered our progress.

Wonderland Columbus is excited by the opportunities presented by this grant application and we fully support the application. With this type of grant at work, our desire to locate this project and the creative jobs it brings along with it, would be more easily fulfilled. Feel free to contact me if there is anything else I can do to help in this important work.

Sincerely,



Adam Brouillette
Executive Director, Wonderland Columbus



(E)

File

ULI Columbus

Larry Peck
Deputy Director
Franklin County Metro Parks
1069 West Main Street
Westerville, OH 43081-1181

RE: Support for Greater Columbus Coalition USEPA Brownfield Grant Application

Dear Mr. Peck:

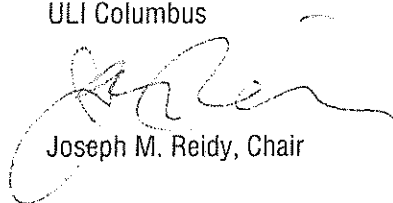
On behalf of the Columbus District Council of the Urban Land Institute (ULI Columbus), we are writing to show our support for the Greater Columbus Coalition USEPA Brownfield Grant application. Founded in 1936, ULI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit research and education organization with nearly 30,000 members worldwide, representing the entire spectrum of land use and real estate development disciplines, with a focus on facilitating the responsible use of land.

It is our understanding that the purpose of the grant is to address brownfield properties in three areas within Franklin County: Franklinton, the State Route 104 industrial corridor and the West Broad Street/I-270 corridor, in order to address economic blight and environmental justice issues. We believe this effort is important to addressing these long under-served areas of Central Ohio and is also consistent with our focus on encouraging in-fill development of urban areas to reduce the loss of farmland and greenspace in the areas surrounding the existing developed core of Columbus.

We have already seen the positive impact of the Clean Ohio brownfield redevelopment program on the Weinland Park neighborhood in Columbus and know that the environmental assessments that will be funded by the USEPA grant are an important first step in understanding the nature and extent of the potential environmental impediments associated with the redevelopment of these areas and will likely catalyze additional investment that is critical to the overall goal of returning these areas to safe and productive use. Without the funding that will be provided by the USEPA grant, these areas are likely to continue to lie fallow and stymie attempts to lift them out of poverty.

Very truly yours,

ULI Columbus



Joseph M. Reidy, Chair

cc: Steve Schoeny, City of Columbus
Jim Schimmer, Franklin County

(E)



Community Development for All People
Transforming Lives, Building for the Future...
946 Parsons Ave., PO Box 6063
Columbus, OH 43206
www.4allpeople.org

January 17, 2014

Mr. Lawrence Peck, Deputy Director
Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks
1069 West Main Street
Westerville, Ohio 43081-1181

Re: Letter of Support for the Greater Columbus Coalition's USEPA Assessment Grant Application

Dear Mr. Peck:

Community Development for All People (CD4AP) strongly supports the Coalition and its efforts to obtain USEPA grant funding for the purpose of conducting environmental assessments of distressed and potentially impacted properties on Columbus' South side and in particular, along the Parsons Ave. / SR 104 corridor area.

CD4AP is a faith-based, non-profit serving the residents of Columbus' South side. In addition to our delivery of direct services, youth development, and health & wellness related programming, we are also a champion in the efforts to revitalize Columbus' South side. We fulfill this role in many ways; most noteworthy is our role as the certified Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) for the South side. In this capacity, we are the largest non-profit developer of affordable housing on Columbus' South side and are strong advocates for all South side residents having the opportunity to live in safe and decent housing, both rental and owner-occupied.

In addition, we are partners with Nationwide Children's Hospital and their Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families initiative. We are also the non-profit development partner on two Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects. The recently completed Southern Gateway Homes project has created 40 new rental homes in the Southern Gateway community. The soon-to-begin Parsons Senior project will result in the creation of a new 56-unit affordable housing complex geared towards Seniors. South Side Renaissance, a public-private partnership seeks to improve the quality of existing housing stock while also increasing opportunities for affordable home ownership, and access to affordable high-quality rental options.

Lastly, CD4AP is the sole-owner of the Parsons Avenue Redevelopment Corporation (PARC). This newly formed entity will have as its primary focus, the commercial re-development of the Parsons Ave. corridor. For this reason as well as those listed above, we lend our support to the efforts of the Coalition in its pursuit of this grant opportunity.

Sincerely,

Rev. John Edgar
Executive Director



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

January 17, 2014

Mr. Larry Peck
Deputy Director
Franklin County Metro Parks
1069 West Main Street
Westerville, Ohio 43081-1181

111 Liberty Street
Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614.228.2663
614.228.1904
1.800.750.0750
www.morpc.org

Subject: Greater Columbus Coalition Community-Wide Environmental Assessment Grant

Dear Mr. Peck:

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is pleased to support the Greater Columbus Coalition's application for a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Community-Wide Environmental Assessment Grant. This project will help address vital issues in Central Ohio related to economic development and identifying risks to human health and the environment.

MORPC is a voluntary association of Central Ohio governments and regional organizations across a 12 county member region which reaches across the boundaries of cities, villages, townships, and counties to improve the quality of life for all Central Ohio residents. MORPC envisions and embraces innovative directions in transportation, energy, housing, land use, the environment and economic prosperity.

As our region and state face unprecedented challenges, MORPC is acutely aware of how the blight of brownfields can impact Central Ohio's prosperity and future. MORPC's 2013 Public Policy Agenda, shaped by members of the Regional Policy Roundtable, a group of diverse interests and representation, identified the desire to preserve and protect natural resources to ensure a healthy environment and strong economy as a primary objective. MORPC supports State appropriations for preserving green space and farmland, improving outdoor recreation, and cleaning up brownfields to encourage redevelopment and revitalize communities. Additionally, MORPC encourages local, state, and federal public officials to implement policies making it easier for individuals and businesses to buy and redevelop vacant and abandoned property.

MORPC considers the Greater Columbus Coalition's application to be an essential component to fostering economic prosperity and improving the quality of life for Central Ohio residents. Identifying, assessing, and cleaning up brownfields to encourage redevelopment and revitalize communities is a laudable goal. MORPC looks forward to working with the Coalition member agencies to support their work.

Warm Regards,

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Marilyn Brown
Chair

Eric S. Phillips
Vice Chair

Matt Greeson
Secretary

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

The
G.H.A.C.

Greater Hilltop Area Commission
P.O. BOX 28520
Columbus, Ohio 43228

"Proudly serving the citizens of Hilltop U.S.A.!"

www.TheGHAC.com

January 17, 2014

Mr. Larry Peck
Deputy Director
Franklin County Metro Parks
1069 West Main Street
Westerville, Ohio 43081-1181

Re: Greater Columbus Coalition Community-Wide Environmental Assessment Grant

Dear Mr. Peck:


As chairman of the Greater Hilltop Area Commission (GHAC) I am pleased to support the Greater Columbus Coalition's application for a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Community-Wide Environmental Assessment Grant. As a life-long resident of the Greater Hilltop community, it is apparent that this effort to develop inventories of brownfields, prioritize sites, conduct community involvement activities, and conduct site assessments will complement the work of the Commission to revitalize our neighborhood and spur economic development.

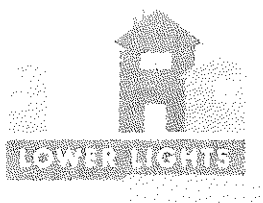
Established in Columbus in the 1970s, area commissions act as a liaison between neighborhood groups, property owners, residents, developers and city officials. The Commission is comprised of elected volunteers from the community and affords additional citizen participation in decision-making in an advisory capacity. The Greater Hilltop Area Commission has been played vital roles in developing and implementing both the Greater Hilltop Plan and Amendment, most recently adopted by City Council in 2010, and the West Broad Street Economic Development Strategy, adopted in 2005.

Economic development and the revitalization of the Greater Hilltop has been an ongoing concern for the Hilltop community. Having the means for assessments would accelerate the redevelopment of specific properties into viable public or private uses which will enhance the overall community, foster economic prosperity, and improving the quality of life for Greater Hilltop Area residents.

I look forward to working with the Coalition member agencies to support their work.

Sincerely,


Chuck Patterson, Chairman
Greater Hilltop Area Commission



LOWER LIGHTS MINISTRIES

1069 West Main Street, Westerville, Ohio 43081-1181



Jan 6, 2014

Mr. Larry Peck
Deputy Director
Franklin County Metro Parks
1069 West Main Street
Westerville, Ohio 43081-1181

Re: Greater Columbus Coalition USEPA Grant
Community Support Letter

Dear Mr. Peck,

I am writing to you in support of the Greater Columbus Coalition USEPA Grant application. I understand that your grant will focus on three areas in Franklin County, which include, Franklinton, State Route 104 Industrial, and the West Broad Street/I-270 corridor. Lower Lights Ministries is located on Bellows Avenue in the heart of Franklinton. We serve Franklinton residents many of whom live in the shadow of the city's industrial past.

Lower Light's mission coincides with the goal of the USEPA grant in that we serve to strengthen our neighborhood from within. We and our neighbors have invested our lives here. We want clean and safe neighborhoods for our children. The fact that there are at least 30 abandoned machine shops, dry cleaners, foundries, and service stations in our immediate neighborhood is something that we cannot escape. However, as you and others investigate these sites and clean them up, they become part of the story of renewal. We are excited at that opportunity.

In conclusion, Lower Lights Ministries wholly supports your USEPA application! Feel free to contact me if there is anything else I can do to help this important work.

Sincerely,

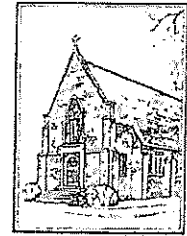
Pastor Jan Ruark,
Chief Executive Officer, Lower Lights Ministries, Inc.

(E)

ST. JOHN'S COLUMBUS
Episcopal Church

1003 West Town Street
Columbus, OH 43222

614 / 221-9328



January 17, 2014

Mr. Lawrence Peck, Deputy Director
Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks
1069 West Main Street
Westerville, Ohio 43081-1181

Re: Letter of Support for the Greater Columbus Coalition's USEPA Assessment Grant Application

Dear Mr. Peck:

St. John's Episcopal Church strongly supports the Coalition's efforts to obtain USEPA grant funding for the environmental assessment of distressed and potentially impacted properties in the Franklinton neighborhood of Columbus.

St. John's Episcopal Church is a congregation of public spirited neighborhood leaders and residents dedicated to enhancing the spiritual and physical lives of the residents of Franklinton. The Franklinton neighborhood is one of the most impoverished areas of the City of Columbus and is in great need of economic development and physical rehabilitation to help lift our residents out of economic and physical distress. We minister to the needs of our members and the community through operation of a small food pantry, provision of clothing and supplies to the under housed and homeless in our midst, operation of *His Place* which provides a hot meal to area families on a weekly basis, and *Street Church*, a ministry which includes a weekly meal with our neighbors living on the street.

We understand that this grant will help fund inventorying and assessment of the environmental conditions and hazards associated with the multitude of vacant and underutilized commercial and industrial buildings in Franklinton which are obstacles to the economic revitalization and investment so badly needed in our area. Recent improvements in East Franklinton have been aided by grants from the State of Ohio and we are hopeful that similar results can be realized in West Franklinton as well.

Our church makes community information available to residents and parishioners on a regular basis and we will undertake efforts to keep our neighbors informed of grant activities as they take place. We also have a space suitable for public meetings and are able to host gatherings for discussion of the project(s).

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Lee Anne Reat
Vicar

Peck, Larry

Attachment F

To: Stimple.Brad@epamail.epa.gov
Subject: RE: Grant Proposal Question

Brad--We went through our files and found nothing--the records we found go back to the first meetings of the Board. I am sure we have something somewhere but this is the first time this has come up in the 17 1/2 years I have been with Metro Parks. I have a call in to the Franklin County Probate Court asking them to see if they can find a copy of the Probate Court Judge's journal authorizing creation of the park district. This is going to take a day or so to see if they can find it as the best person is out of the office until Wednesday. Maybe we don't really exist.....

Larry

-----Original Message-----

From: Stimple.Brad@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Stimple.Brad@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 11:48 AM
To: Peck, Larry
Subject: Grant Proposal Question

Larry, the attorney assigned to review eligibility requires further clarification, see below.

Thanks Brad,

I do need additional information.

The statute they cite, Ohio Revised Code 1545, while authorizing the creation of a Park District, requires action by a separate entity to create them. (see 1545.02 below) They need to provide a copy of the document creating them under the Section 1545. If section 1545 was different in 1945, they need to provide a copy of the relevant version of that statute and any other documentation required thereunder to create them.

§ 1545.01. Park districts created

Park districts may be created which include all or a part of the territory within a county, and the boundary lines of such district shall be so drawn as not to divide any existing township or municipal corporation within such county.

§ 1545.02. Application to probate judge for creation

Application for the creation of a park district shall be made to the probate judge of the county within which the district is to be located. Such application shall either be signed by a majority of the electors residing within the proposed district as determined by the number of electors voting at the most recent general election within such territory, or, in lieu thereof, shall be authorized by resolution adopted by the board of county commissioners, any board of township trustees, or legislative authority of any municipal corporation within such proposed district. Such application shall state the name of the proposed district, shall contain an accurate description of the territory to be included, and shall be accompanied with an accurate map or plat thereof.

Brad Stimple
U.S. EPA Region 5
Brownfields Project Manager
25089 Center Ridge Road
Westlake, Ohio 44145
Office 440.250.1717

Peck, Larry

To: Stimple.Brad@epamail.epa.gov
Subject: RE: Columbus and Franklin County Parks District R05-09-A-050

Brad

-----Original Message-----

From: Stimple.Brad@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Stimple.Brad@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 11:30 AM
To: Peck, Larry
Subject: Fw: Columbus and Franklin County Parks District R05-09-A-050

Larry, as discussed, please provide clarification to the questions below. Thanks in advance. Brad

Brad Stimple
U.S. EPA Region 5
Brownfields Project Manager
25089 Center Ridge Road
Westlake, Ohio 44145
Office 440.250.1717
Cell 440.476.8577
Fax 440.250.1750
stimple.brad@epa.gov

----- Forwarded by BRAD STIMPLE/R5/USEPA/US on 12/12/2008 11:28 AM -----

Maria
Gonzalez/R5/USEP
A/US

12/11/2008 06:24
PM

BRAD STIMPLE/R5/USEPA/US@EPA
Puja Lakhani/R5/USEPA/US@EPA,
Maria Gonzalez/R5/USEPA/US@EPA

To
cc

Subject
Columbus and Franklin County
Parks District R05-09-A-050

As discussed on page 12 of the Guidelines for Brownfields Assistance Grants, the Parks District should attach documentation of its eligibility. (e.g. statutes and ordinances) Could you obtain the documentation from them? Also, it was not clear to me whether they represented one County and a city within that county, Columbus, or multiple counties. If there were multiple counties, did each issue an ordinance under ORC 1545?

F

Peck, Larry

To: Stimple.Brad@epamail.epa.gov
Subject: RE: Columbus and Franklin County Parks District R05-09-A-050

Brad;

The Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District is an independent political subdivision of the State of Ohio established under the enabling legislation found in Ohio Revised Code 1545. Our governing body is the Board of Park Commissioners for our park district. We are not under the authority of county commissioners, township trustees, mayors or city councils, etc. nor are we under the governor/Ohio General Assembly. I believe we attached a copy of the resolution our Board adopted authorizing us to submit for the grant (Resolution 4896 dated November 13, 2008)--if you did not get it let me know and I will send another copy to you.

ORC 1545 authorizes the existence of park districts in Ohio and we have been in existence since 1945. The Park District enabling legislation was first adopted by the General Assembly in 1917 recognizing the fact that "Mother Nature" did not necessarily coincide with local government boundaries and as such park districts are not limited by the law in terms of owning property and conducting business in only 1 county or within municipal corporate boundaries for example. We are operating at this time in 7 counties in Central Ohio although our taxing authority is limited to Franklin County. Several other park districts in Ohio have property in multiple counties. Given our status as a political subdivision of the State of Ohio we do not usually get the "permission" of county commissioners as a normal course of business.

To answer the question directly, we represent the park district and we did not seek any ordinances or resolutions or approvals from any other governmental body. I would note that in the enabling legislation for the Clean Ohio Fund, park districts are listed among the eligible bodies for brownfield side Clean Ohio Funds.

Hopefully, this helps. If you need I could send our bylaws but I am not sure of their relevance.

Larry Peck

-----Original Message-----

From: Stimple.Brad@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Stimple.Brad@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 11:30 AM
To: Peck, Larry
Subject: Fw: Columbus and Franklin County Parks District R05-09-A-050

Larry, as discussed, please provide clarification to the questions below. Thanks in advance. Brad

Brad Stimple
U.S. EPA Region 5
Brownfields Project Manager
25089 Center Ridge Road
Westlake, Ohio 44145
Office 440.250.1717
Cell 440.476.8577
Fax 440.250.1750
stimple.brad@epa.gov

----- Forwarded by BRAD STIMPLE/R5/USEPA/US on 12/12/2008 11:28 AM -----

Maria
Gonzalez/R5/USEP
A/US

12/11/2008 06:24
PM

BRAD STIMPLE/R5/USEPA/US@EPA

To

CC

Puja Lakhani/R5/USEPA/US@EPA,
Maria Gonzalez/R5/USEPA/US@EPA

Subject

Columbus and Franklin County
Parks District R05-09-A-050

As discussed on page 12 of the Guidelines for Brownfields Assistance Grants, the Parks District should attach documentation of its eligibility. (e.g. statutes and ordinances) Could you obtain the documentation from them? Also, it was not clear to me whether they represented one County and a city within that county, Columbus, or multiple counties. If there were multiple counties, did each issue an ordinance under ORC 1545?